

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A steam blanketing apparatus for blanketing the  
5 face of a spinneret with gas comprising:  
a spinneret pack body including a spinneret plate  
having a lower face with an orifice array through which  
filaments are extruded;  
a spin head surrounding the spinneret pack body;  
10 and  
a steam distribution ring surrounding said array,  
wherein said steam distribution ring abuts the spin  
head.
- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the steam  
distribution ring is removably mounted to the spin  
head.
- 20 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the spin head  
includes a plate extending below the spinneret plate,  
and the steam distribution ring is located in a  
counterbore formed in the spin head plate.
- 25 4. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a  
plurality of magnets attached to the spin head for  
attaching the steam distribution ring to the spin head.
5. A method for keeping the face of a spinneret free  
of polymer deposits, comprising:  
30 removing a steam distribution ring removably  
mounted to a spin head;  
wiping the polymer deposits from the face of the  
spinneret.
- 35 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the steam  
distribution ring is removed without the need for  
replacing the spin pack.

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